

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method, comprising:
2 receiving data of a multimedia presentation, wherein the data includes a
3 first plurality of streams; and
4 multicasting a second plurality of streams that includes a dedicated
5 announcement stream and a first stream selected from the first plurality of streams,
6 wherein the announcement stream includes presentation description information of the
7 multimedia presentation.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the second plurality of streams are
2 multicast on different channels.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the second plurality of streams is
2 multicast on predetermined different channels.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the predetermined different
2 channels comprise predetermined logical addresses.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the predetermined logical addresses
2 are predetermined internet protocol (IP) addresses with predetermined ports.
- 1 6. The method of claim 3, wherein the predetermined different
2 channels comprise predetermined ports of a logical address.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the second plurality of streams
2 further comprises a second stream that includes a plurality of units of data of the
3 multimedia presentation, the plurality of units each comprising a preselected number of
4 previous subunits of data of the multimedia presentation.

1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein each unit of the plurality of units
2 includes a key frame.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the second plurality of streams
2 further comprises multiple streams of video data having different bit rates.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the second plurality of streams
2 further comprises multiple streams of audio data having different bit rates.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the second plurality of streams
2 further comprises multiple streams of multimedia data in different languages.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the second plurality of streams
2 further comprises a stream of data to be used by an application running on a client
3 receiving the second plurality of streams.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the announcement stream includes
2 error correction information.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the announcement stream includes
2 security information.

1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the announcement stream is
2 multicast on an out-of-band channel.

1 16. The method of claim 1, wherein the announcement stream is
2 multicast on an in-band channel.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the announcement stream is
2 multicast to conform to a real-time transport control protocol (RTCP), the announcement
3 stream being interspersed in-band within a stream of multimedia presentation data that
4 are multicast to conform to a real-time transport protocol (RTP).

1 18. The method of claim 16, wherein the announcement stream is
2 multicast so that announcement stream data is included in a packet containing multimedia
3 presentation data.

1 19. A computer-accessible medium having computer-executable
2 instructions to perform operations comprising:

3 receiving data of a multimedia presentation, wherein the data includes a
4 first plurality of streams; and

5 multicasting a second plurality of streams that includes a dedicated
6 announcement stream and a first stream selected from the first plurality of streams,

7 wherein the announcement stream includes presentation description information of the
8 multimedia presentation.

1 20. The computer-accessible medium of claim 19, wherein the second
2 plurality of streams are multicast on different channels.

1 21. The computer-accessible medium of claim 20, wherein the second
2 plurality of streams is multicast on predetermined different channels.

1 22. The computer-accessible medium of claim 21, wherein the
2 predetermined different channels comprise predetermined logical addresses.

1 23. The computer-accessible medium of claim 22, wherein the
2 predetermined logical addresses are predetermined Internet protocol (IP) addresses with
3 predetermined ports.

1 24. The computer-accessible medium of claim 21, wherein the
2 predetermined different channels comprise predetermined ports of an logical address.

1 25. The computer-accessible medium of claim 19 , wherein the second
2 plurality of streams further comprises a second stream that includes a plurality of units of
3 data of the multimedia presentation, the plurality of units each comprising a preselected
4 number of previous subunits of data of the multimedia presentation.

1 26. The computer-accessible medium of claim 25 wherein each unit of
2 the plurality of units includes a key frame.

1 27. The computer-accessible medium of claim 19, wherein the second
2 plurality of streams further comprises multiple streams of video data having different bit
3 rates.

1 28. The computer-accessible medium of claim 19, wherein the second
2 plurality of streams further comprises multiple streams of audio data having different bit
3 rates.

1 29. The computer-accessible medium of claim 19, wherein the second
2 plurality of streams further comprises multiple streams of multimedia data in different
3 languages.

1 30. The computer-accessible medium of claim 19, wherein the second
2 plurality of streams further comprises a stream of data to be used by an application
3 running on a client receiving the second plurality of streams.

1 31. The computer-accessible medium of claim 19, wherein
2 announcement stream includes error correction information.

1 32. The computer-accessible medium of claim 19, wherein
2 announcement stream includes security information.

1 33. A computer-accessible medium having computer-executable
2 instructions to perform operations comprising:

3 receiving data of a multimedia presentation, wherein the data includes a
4 first plurality of streams; and

5 multicasting a second plurality of streams that includes a first stream
6 selected from the first plurality of streams and a second stream that includes a plurality of
7 units of data of the multimedia presentation, the plurality of units each comprising a
8 preselected number of previous subunits of data of the multimedia presentation.

1 34. The computer-accessible medium of claim 33, wherein each unit of
2 the plurality of units includes a key frame.

1 35. The computer-accessible medium of claim 33, wherein the plurality
2 of units of the second stream each includes enough data to reduce the amount of time
3 needed by a multimedia player to begin playback of the multimedia presentation.

1 36. A method comprising:
2 receiving data of a multimedia presentation, wherein the data includes a
3 first plurality of streams; and

4 multicasting a second plurality of streams that includes a first stream
5 selected from the first plurality of streams and a second stream that includes a plurality of
6 units of data of the multimedia presentation, the plurality of units each comprising a
7 preselected number of previous subunits of data of the multimedia presentation.

1 37. The method of claim 36, wherein each unit of the plurality of units
2 includes a key frame.

1 38. The method of claim 36, wherein the plurality of units of the second
2 stream each includes enough data to reduce the amount of time needed by a multimedia
3 player to begin playback of the multimedia presentation.

1 39. A method comprising:
2 receiving data of a multimedia presentation, wherein the data includes a
3 first plurality of streams; and
4 multicasting a second plurality of streams that includes first and second
5 streams related to information contained in the first plurality of streams, wherein the first
6 and second streams are multicast in preselected channels.

1 40. The method of claim 39, wherein the predetermined different
2 channels comprise predetermined logical addresses.

1 41. The method of claim 39, wherein the predetermined different
2 channels comprise predetermined ports of an Internet protocol (IP) address.

1 42. The method of claim 39, wherein the first stream is an
2 announcement stream containing presentation description information.

1 43. A computer-accessible medium having computer-executable
2 instructions to perform operations comprising:
3 receiving data of a multimedia presentation, wherein the data includes a
4 first plurality of streams; and
5 multicasting a second plurality of streams that includes first and second
6 streams related to information contained in the first plurality of streams, wherein the first
7 and second streams are multicast in preselected channels.

1 44. The computer-accessible medium of claim 43, wherein the
2 predetermined different channels comprise predetermined logical addresses.

1 45. The computer-accessible medium of claim 44, wherein the
2 predetermined logical addresses are predetermined Internet protocol (IP) addresses with
3 predetermined ports.

1 46. The computer-accessible medium of claim 43, wherein the
2 predetermined different channels comprise predetermined ports of a logical address.

1 47. The computer-accessible medium of claim 44, wherein the first
2 stream is an announcement stream containing presentation description information.

1 48. A method, comprising:
2 receiving a first stream from a preselected first channel, wherein the first
3 stream comprises presentation description information related to a multimedia
4 presentation being multicast;
5 concurrently with receiving the first stream on the preselected first channel,
6 receiving a second stream on a second preselected channel, wherein the second stream
7 comprises a stream of multimedia data of the multimedia presentation being multicast.

1 49. The method of claim 48, further comprising:
2 terminating reception of the second stream; and
3 selectively receiving a third stream on a third channel selected in response
4 to presentation description information received from the first stream, wherein the third
5 stream comprises another stream of multimedia data of the multimedia presentation being
6 multicast.

1 50. The method of claim 48, further comprising continuing reception of
2 the second stream in response to presentation description information received from the
3 first stream indicating that the second stream meets preselected criteria.

1 51. A computer-accessible medium having computer-executable
2 instructions to perform operations comprising:

3 receiving a first stream from a preselected first channel, wherein the first
4 stream comprises presentation description information related to a multimedia
5 presentation being multicast;

6 concurrently with receiving the first stream on the preselected first channel,
7 receiving a second stream on a second preselected channel, wherein the second stream
8 comprises a stream of multimedia data of the multimedia presentation being multicast.

1 52. The computer-accessible medium of claim 51, wherein the
2 operations further comprise:

3 terminating reception of the second stream; and

4 selectively receiving a third stream on a third channel selected in response
5 to presentation description information received from the first stream, wherein the third
6 stream comprises another stream of multimedia data of the multimedia presentation being
7 multicast.

1 53. The computer-accessible medium of claim 51, wherein the
2 operations further comprise:

3 continuing reception of the second stream in response to presentation
4 description information received from the first stream indicating that the second stream
5 meets preselected criteria.

1 54. A method, comprising:
2 receiving a unit of data from a preselected first channel, wherein the first
3 channel transports a plurality of units of data of a multimedia presentation being
4 multicast, wherein the plurality of units each comprise a preselected number of previous
5 subunits of data of the multimedia presentation being multicast;
6 terminating reception of data from the first preselected channel; and
7 receiving a second stream on a second channel, wherein the second stream
8 comprises a stream of multimedia of the multimedia presentation being multicast.

1 55. The method of claim 54, wherein the second channel is selected in
2 response to presentation description information received from an announcement
3 channel.

1 56. The method of claim 54, wherein the second channel is preselected.

1 57. A computer-accessible medium having computer-executable
2 instructions to perform operations comprising:
3 receiving a unit of data from a preselected first channel, wherein the first
4 channel transports a plurality of units of data of a multimedia presentation being
5 multicast, wherein the plurality of units each comprise a preselected number of previous
6 subunits of data of the multimedia presentation being multicast;
7 terminating reception of data from the first preselected channel; and

8 receiving a second stream on a second channel, wherein the second stream
9 comprises a stream of multimedia of the multimedia presentation being multicast.

1 58. The computer-accessible medium of claim 57, wherein the second
2 channel is selected in response to presentation description information received from an
3 announcement channel.

1 59. The computer-accessible medium of claim 57, wherein the second
2 channel is preselected.

1 60. A system, comprising:
2 a first interface to receive a first plurality of streams of a multimedia
3 presentation;
4 an announcement generator to provide an announcement stream containing
5 presentation description information regarding the multimedia presentation;
6 a mapper to map the announcement stream and a first stream selected from
7 the first plurality of streams to a plurality of channels; and
8 a second interface to multicast a second plurality of streams over a network,
9 wherein the second plurality of streams comprises the mapped announcement stream and
10 the mapped first stream.

1 61. The system of claim 60, wherein the second plurality of streams is
2 multicast on predetermined different channels.

1 62. The system of claim 61, wherein the predetermined different
2 channels comprise predetermined logical addresses.

1 63. The system of claim 62, wherein the predetermined logical addresses
2 each comprise an Internet protocol (IP) address and a port.

1 64. The system of claim 61, wherein the predetermined different
2 channels comprise predetermined ports of a logical address.

1 65. The system of claim 61, wherein the second plurality of streams
2 further comprises a second stream that when multicast includes a plurality of units of data
3 of the multimedia presentation, the plurality of units each comprising a preselected
4 number of previous subunits of data of the multimedia presentation.

1 66. The system of claim 65 wherein the second stream includes a key
2 frame.

1 67. The system of claim 61, wherein the second plurality of streams
2 further comprises streams of video data having different bit rates selected from the first
3 plurality of streams.

1 68. The system of claim 61, wherein the second plurality of streams
2 further comprises multiple streams of audio data having different bit rates selected from
3 the first plurality of streams.

1 69. The system of claim 61, wherein the second plurality of streams
2 further comprises multiple streams of multimedia data in different languages selected
3 from the first plurality of streams.

1 70. The system of claim 61, wherein the second plurality of streams
2 further comprises a stream of data to be used by an application running on a client
3 receiving the second plurality of streams.

1 71. The system of claim 61, wherein the announcement stream includes
2 error correction information.

1 72. The system of claim 61, wherein the announcement stream includes
2 security information.

1 73. The system of claim 61, wherein the announcement stream is
2 multicast on an out-of-band channel.

1 74. The system of claim 61, wherein the announcement stream is
2 multicast on an in-band channel.

1 75. The system of claim 74, wherein the announcement stream is
2 multicast to conform to a real-time transport control protocol (RTCP), the announcement
3 stream being interspersed in-band within a stream of multimedia presentation data that
4 are multicast to conform to a real-time transport protocol (RTP).

1 76. The system of claim 74, wherein the announcement stream is
2 multicast so that announcement stream data is included in a packet containing multimedia
3 presentation data.

1 77. A computer-accessible medium containing components as recited in
2 claim 61.

1 78. A system, comprising:
2 means for receiving a first plurality of streams of a multimedia
3 presentation;
4 means for generating an announcement stream containing presentation
5 description information regarding the multimedia presentation;
6 means for mapping the announcement stream and a first stream selected
7 from the first plurality of streams to one or more channels of a plurality of channels; and
8 means for multicasting the second plurality of streams over a network,
9 wherein the second plurality of streams comprises the mapped announcement and first
10 streams.

1 79. The system of claim 78, wherein the second plurality of streams is
2 multicast on predetermined different channels.

1 80. The system of claim 79, further comprising:
2 means for providing a plurality of units of data of the multimedia
3 presentation to the means for mapping, the plurality of units of data to be multicast as

4 part of the second plurality of streams, wherein the plurality of units when multicast each
5 comprises a preselected number of previous subunits of data of the multimedia
6 presentation.

1 81. A computer-accessible medium containing components as recited in
2 claim 78.